

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of WILTON for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

AREA of the District in Acres, 56,868. POPULATION of the District at the Last Census, 7,774.
ESTIMATED POPULATION to the Middle of 1897, 8,265.

DEATH RATES:—General, 12·5 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897.
„ Infant (under one year of age), 95 per 1,000 Births registered.

GENTLEMEN,

The population in 1891 was 7774, and the corrected population, as at Midsummer 1897, was 8265. The area of the district is 56,868 acres, being equivalent to 6·8 acres per inhabitant. The number of houses in the district is 1630, and the average number of occupants to each house is five.

One of the new wells at Quidhampton, which long yielded a very turbid water, is improving, and the supply as a whole appears to work well.

Of the new wells sunk at Lower Fovant, one was good, but the other, although not exhibiting evidence of contamination, was undrinkable because sunk in a bed of blue clay which it had not pierced.

In all, 38 samples of water have been analysed, and these were drawn from the Parishes of Barford, Bishopstone, Bower Chalke, Broad Chalke, Burcombe, Dinton, Fisherton Delamere, Fovant, Bemerton, Little Langford, Netherhampton, Steeple Langford, South Newton, Wishford, and Wylke. Ten of these were found to be impure, and the wells or rain tanks from which they were drawn were cleansed. Three new wells were sunk, and nine wells cleansed or repaired. Two cisterns were cleansed and repaired.

Where there is a supply from Water Works 177 houses are connected with the mains.

During 1897 eight w.c.'s were ordered to be repaired and seven were supplied with water. Twenty-five privies were constructed or altered.

One house was closed as unfit for human habitation, and four new houses were erected and were granted certificates. Forty-seven houses, more or less dilapidated and injurious to health, have been placed in habitable repair.

Two cases of over-crowding have been abated.

The streams and water-courses are clear and free from pollution, and their banks are well cared for.

No Burial ground is at present overcrowded or in an insanitary condition.

The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Workshops, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, have been duly inspected and reported on. The bye-laws on these several subjects have been observed.

The district has been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances during the year. Seventy-eight houses were found to be in an insanitary condition. 179 nuisances of various kinds were reported, and of these 173 have been abated. In all, 227 notices have been served.

In January, February, March, and April Diphtheria was prevalent; and 20 cases were notified from Barford, Compton, Fovant, Bemerton, Netherhampton, South Newton, and Wishford. Four cases of Scarlatina occurred in January and February, and three cases of

Erysipelas in February, March, and April. Measles were prevalent in May and June, and Chicken-pox and Whooping Cough were common in many parts of the district. No case of infectious disease was notified during the latter half of 1897.

During the year the schools were closed for short periods on account of illness; in Barford for Measles, in Burcombe and Dinton for Whooping Cough, and in Steeple Langford for Influenza. Where the schools were not actually closed the children of infected families were kept away from school until infection was over. In this way 3,434 school attendances were lost in the 17 schools of the district.

In all cases where it was required, disinfectants and instructions were given, and in addition to the houses disinfected by the occupiers themselves, five houses were disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Among the deaths registered one was due to Erysipelas, three to Measles, two to Whooping Cough, one to Diarrhœa, seven to Phthisis, twelve to Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and thirteen to Heart disease.

The Sanitary staff remains the same. No special report has been called for during the year.

The number of Deaths from all causes was 104, being those of 55 males and 49 females. The death-rate was 12·5 per 1,000. The average death-rate of the last five years is 13·8.

The births registered were 189; of these 93 were of males and 96 of females. The Birth-rate is 22·8 per 1,000. The average Birth-rate of the last five years is 24 per 1,000.

I append the usual tables and the schedule of supervision exercised.

I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

CHARLES R. STRATON,

Lic. San. Sc., Durham.

5th February, 1898.

Table of DEATHS during the year 1897, in the Wilton Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		Mortality from all Causes, at subjoined Ages.						Mortality from subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.											
		At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
Wilton	...	50	8	1	3	1	12	25	Under 5	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	4	9
									5 upwds.	1	1	—	—	3	4	8	1	23	41
Bishopstone	...	54	10	8	1	2	14	19	Under 5	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	13	18
									5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	4	4	5	—	23	36
TOTALS	...	104	18	9	4	3	26	44	Under 5	—	2	2	1	—	4	—	1	17	27
									5 upwds.	1	1	—	—	7	8	13	1	46	77

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Wilton Rural District ; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.				POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.		
				Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.
Wilton	...	...	...	7774	8265	103	Under 5	—	—	—
							5 upwards	6	—	—
Bishopstone	...	...	...	7774	8265	86	Under 5	—	—	—
							5 upwards	2	20	4
TOTALS				7774	8265	189	Under 5	—	—	—
							5 upwards	8	20	4

*Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Rural Sanitary District of
Wilton during the year ending December 31st, 1897.*

	Total Number for Year.	Results of Inspection, &c.
1. Complaints received	13	
2. Cottages inspected	1690	
3. Lodging-houses inspected	Nil.	
4. Slaughter-houses inspected	2	
5. Bake-houses inspected	21	
6. Dairies and Milk-shops inspected	64	
7. Cowsheds inspected	65	
8. Workshops inspected	9	
9. Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46, Public Health Act, 1875 ...	78	
10. Houses disinfected	5	
11. Overcrowding abated	2	
12. Houses placed in habitable repair	47	
13. Houses closed	1	
14. Houses erected or rebuilt, for which "Certificates" were applied for	4	
15. "Certificates" granted	4	
16. "Certificates" deferred	Nil.	
17. Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded ...	3	
18. Wells cleansed or repaired	9	
19. Wells closed	Nil.	
20. Defective pumps repaired or new pumps erected to existing wells	1	
21. Leaky taps repaired where drawing from public mains ...	Nil.	
22. Houses connected with sewers	5	
23. Houses connected with water mains	177	
24. Earth, pail, or improved privies, drains and cesspools con- structed or existing privies altered	25	
25. Privies and w.c.'s repaired (8) ; w.c.'s supplied with water (7)	15	
26. Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	2	
27. Animals improperly kept removed	Nil.	
28. Samples of water taken for Analysis	38	28 good, and 10 impure
29. Samples of food or drink taken for Analysis	Nil.	Taken by County Inspector
30. Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ...	Nil.	
31. Seizures of unsound meat, &c.	Nil.	County Inspector
32. Nuisances reported or detected	199	
33. Nuisances abated	173	
34. Notices served	227	
35. Summonses taken out	Nil.	
36. Convictions	Nil.	

(Signed) JOHN GOULDEN.